

Environment & Natural Resources 5797.06 (3 credits)

Summer 2017

Iceland Study Abroad

June 9 – 22, 2017

Resident Directors:

Susan J. Burks
210 Kottman Hall
(614)292-2265
burks.39@osu.edu

Brian Slater
210P Kottman Hall
(614)292-7315; (614)581-9102 (cell)
slater.39@osu.edu

Prerequisites:

- ENR 5790.06 - Spring 2017 Iceland Pre-departure Seminar

The Program:

ENR 5797.06: Iceland Study Abroad consists of a thirteen-day study tour of Iceland (June 2017) designed to give students a unique experience comprised of field excursions to explore and investigate Icelandic natural history, agriculture, land use and land degradation, natural resources industries, energy sources, and other environmental issues as well as the culture and historical heritage of the country.

Course Purpose/Objectives

The primary objective of ENR 5797.06 is to expose students to a country with unique and diverse environmental conditions as well as significant challenges. A second objective is to encourage students to examine how another society deals with environmental issues similar to those found in the U.S.; this program will allow students to see such dichotomies firsthand. Students will study and observe issues such as land degradation (deforestation, soil erosion, and desertification), that resulted from the unique combination of climatic and ecological conditions, over a millennium of human settlement, and volcanic hazards, as well as restoration and conservation efforts that have been practiced for over a century. Students will also visit and learn about industries such as fishing and whaling, tourism and park management, sustainable energy generation, and Icelandic cultural heritage and history. The purpose of this program is to foster awareness of environmental issues on a national Icelandic level, and to form a basis for comparison and understanding of the same on an international level as well.

Draft Itinerary:

Travel to Iceland, June 9.

Day 1 (June 10th Saturday).

- Arrival early morning at Keflavik airport . Bus to Hvanneyri.
- Arrival in Hvanneyri around Lunch
- Short lecture about what is ahead – practical information
- Break – students take their bags to the Guesthouse at Hvanneyri
- Guided tour around Hvanneyri (walking). Starting point: Gamli skóli guesthouse
- Trip to Hespuhús, Guðrún Bjarnadóttir – How do we use Icelandic plants to color yarn. (Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hespa/127274923961928>)

Overnight at Hvanneyri

Day 2. (June 11th, Sunday)

- Visit *Reykholt museum Snorrastofa* (home of Snorri Sturluson, one of the world's greatest scholars of Medieval times). (www.snorrastofa.is)
- Visit Hraunfossar and Barnafossar.
- Visit Fljótstunga – Víðgemplir (cave) (<http://www.fljotstunga.is/#!short-tours/c1s87>)
- Visit Háafell – The Icelandic Goat centre (www.geitur.is)
- Visit to Deildartunguhver - Hot springs introduction and the utilization of thermal water resources in Iceland.

Overnight at Hvanneyri

Day 3. (June 12th, Monday)

Trip to Hvalfjörður

- History from the World War II
- Whaling – now and then
- Vegetation
- Hike up the waterfall Glymur

Overnight at Hvanneyri

Day 4: (June 13th, Tuesday)

- Hike up to Grábrók – old volcanic crater (<https://www.west.is/en/west/place/grabrok-crater>)
- Visit Erpsstaðir – Dairy farm – Entrepreneurs in Agriculture (www.erpsstadir.is)
- Visit to Eiríksstaðir – Museum – the place where Eiríkur Rauði (Eirik the Red) was born (www.eiriksstadir.is)
- Laugar í Sælingsdal – hike around the neighbourhood (<https://www.west.is/is/west/place/laugar-in-saelingsdal>)

Overnight at Laugar í Sælingsdal

Day 5. (June 14th, Wednesday)

Snæfellsnes Peninsula

Visit to Bjarnarhöfn farm for a taste of Iceland!

Travel around one of the most scenic areas of Iceland, visiting the legendary Snæfelljökull volcano (see journey to the center of the earth by Jules Verne).

Travel through small towns built around the (dwindling) fishing industry.

- Bjarnarhöfn (<https://www.west.is/en/west/service/bjarnarhofn>)
- Kirkjufell (<https://www.west.is/en/west/place/kirkjufell-mountain>)
- Dritvík (<https://guidetoiceland.is/connect-with-locals/regina/djupalonssandur-beach---a-lava-wonderland>)
- Lóndrangar (<https://www.west.is/en/west/place/londrangar-basalt-cliffs>)
- Hellnar (<https://www.west.is/en/west-iceland-regions/hellnar>)
- Bird-Hike from Hellnar to Arnarstapi
- Arnarstapi (<https://www.west.is/en/west-iceland-regions/arnarstapi>)

Overnight at Arnarstapi

Day 6 – (June 15th, Thursday)

- Búðir beach
- Rauðfeldsgjá – (https://hiticeland.com/places_and_photos_from_iceland/rau%C3%B0feldsgj%C3%A1)
- Ytri-Tunga – looking for seals (<https://www.west.is/en/west/place/ytri-tunga>)
- Ölkelda – (<https://www.west.is/en/west/place/olkelda-mineral-spring>)

Overnight at Hvanneyri

Day 7. (June 16th, Friday)

Visit Borgarnes and its museum. Day relatively open for hikes and horseback riding (optional), swimming etc.

Overnight at Hvanneyri

Day 8. (June 17th, Saturday)

Þingvellir, the Golden Circle and Hekla

The trip takes participants east from fertile agricultural lands to the deserts and active volcanic belt over a highland pass to Þingvellir (*Thingvellir*) the ancient site of the Parliament (Alþingi). Walking around Þingvellir, geology and Icelandic history. Golden Circle (Gullfoss and Geysir) Travel through the area around Hekla, Iceland's most infamous volcano.

Overnight at River site guesthouse, Þrúðvangur, Hellu

Day 9. (June 18th, Sunday)
Drive up to Þórsmörk.

Overnight in Þórsmörk - Húsadalur (<http://volcanohuts.com>)

Day 10. (June 19th, Monday)
Drive from Þórsmörk to Selfoss

Overnight at Gaulverjaskóli, Selfoss

Day 11. (June 20th, Tuesday)
Visit the National museum. Time to 'roam free' around the shops and sights of Reykjavík giving the plastic a workout. End the day in the Blue Lagoon (optional).

Overnight at Grindavík, Reykjanes

Day 12. (June 21st, Wednesday)
Visit Reykjanes peninsula – some short hikes

- Gunnuhver - (<https://www.visitreykjanes.is/en/what-to-see-do/reykjanes-geopark/geosites/index/place/gunnuhver>)
- Seltún - (<https://www.visitreykjanes.is/en/travel/places/nature/seltun>)

Overnight at Guesthouse Alex, Keflavík (<http://alex.is/home/>)

Day 13 (June 22nd, Thursday)
Flight home

Please note that weather is an important factor in any activities so slight changes may have to be made with a short notice

Summary and Grading of Assignments:

A. Book or Film Review (20%)

Choose a book to read or a film to watch from the list for review. Provide a review of at least 3 pages double spaced text, 12 point type, MS Word file or .pdf in Carmen by 10:00 PM Wednesday June 7. Be prepared to share your thoughts and opinions with the class during our travels in Iceland.

Books

Travel Anecdotes:

The Windows Of Brimnes: An American In Iceland, Bill Holm 2008

Names for The Sea: Strangers in Iceland, Sarah Moss 2013

Iceland, Defrosted, [Edward Hancox](#) 2013

A Good Horse Has No Color, Nancy Marie Brown, 2001

History:

Wasteland with Words: A Social History Of Iceland, Sigurður Gylfi Magnússon 2010
The History of Iceland, [Gunnar Karlsson](#) 2000
The Far Traveler: Voyages of a Viking Woman, Nancy Marie Brown, 2008
Songs of the Vikings: Snorri and the Making of Norse Myths, Nancy Marie Brown 2014

Environment and Culture:

Iceland Imagined: Nature, Culture, and Storytelling in The North Atlantic, Karen Oslund 2013

The Little Book of the Icelanders; The Little Book of the Icelanders in the Old Days; and The Little Book of the Hidden People, by Alda Sigmundsdóttir

Fiction:

Halldor Laxness was Iceland's only Nobel Laureate. His novels are interesting and challenging. I suggest Independent People, Iceland's Bell, The Fish Can Sing, or Under the Glacier

http://www.amazon.com/Halldor-Laxness/e/B000APEBH8/ref=sr_tc_2_0?qid=1373638072&sr=1-2-ent

Other Fiction:

The Tricking of Freya, Christine Sunley 2010

Icelandic Sagas:

If you are up to the challenge, you could read an English translation of any of the great Icelandic Sagas. We suggest "Njal's Saga" since it is one of the most important, and relates to parts of the country you will visit. https://www.amazon.com/Njals-Saga-Penguin-Classics/dp/0140447695/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1494947089&sr=1-1&keywords=Njal%27s+Saga

Films:

The following films, (most originally in Icelandic) are among the most popular and topical movies that have an Icelandic context. The first five are works of fiction (dramas and comedies), and the others are mostly documentaries. It is not easy to find some of these, but worth the effort if you are interested in film.

Djúpið (The Deep) (2012) (Director: Baltasar Kormákur)

101 Reykjavík (2000) (Director: Baltasar Kormákur)

Hafið (The Sea) (2002) (Director: Baltasar Kormákur)

Börn Náttúrunnar (Children Of Nature) (1991) (Director: [Friðrik Þór Friðriksson](#))

Hrútar (Rams) ([2015](#)) (Director [Grímur Hákonarson](#)) (If you attended the class showing of this film, please choose another film or a book to review for this assignment).

Heima (Home) (2007) (Director Dean DeBlois)

[Draumalandið](#) (Dreamland) (2009) (Director: [Andri Snær Magnason](#))

Albatross (2015) Director: Snævar Sölvason

Blóðberg (Homecoming) (2015) Director: Björn Hlynur Haraldsson

Nói (Noi the Albino) (2004) Director: Dagur Kári

B. Class Attendance and Active Participation (40%)

Active participation in the entire Study Abroad experience is expected and required. This will include field excursions, lectures and discussions, reflection sessions to be run by students, a blog contribution and other structured experiences. Reflection sessions will be held every evening and will consist of group exercises and discussions related to the day's events, and a brief summary of the next day's schedule. Every student will be expected to contribute to these daily discussions. We encourage creativity in the organization and activity of these reflection sessions. Each student will contribute to the conduct of two reflection sessions – once as the leader and once in support of another student. The following is a tentative schedule of these sessions:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Geographic Focus</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Assistant</i>
6/10 Saturday	Hvanneyri	Rebecca	Sasha
6/11 Sunday	Reykholt	Cassie	Alec
6/12 Monday	Hvalfjörður	Jessica	Jennifer
6/13 Tuesday	Dalir	Gabe	Rachel
6/14 Wednesday	Snæfellsnes	Jonathan	Rebecca
6/15 Thursday	Snæfellsnes	Gabriella	Kyle
6/16 Friday	Borgarnes/ Borgarfjörður	Brennan	Cassie
6/17 Saturday	Þingvellir, Haukadalur	Sasha	Jessica
6/18 Sunday	Þórsmörk	Alec	Gabriella
6/19 Monday	Þórsmörk	Jennifer	Jonathan
6/20 Tuesday	Reykjavik	Rachel	Brennan
6/21 Wednesday	Reykjanes	Kyle	Gabe

C. Journal Assignment (40%)

Students should provide a journal in which they can record their experiences and reflections. Students will write daily about their field experiences, including observations and impressions related to site visits and how they relate to principles discussed in ENR 5790.06, as well as other reflections regarding travel, cultural perspectives, interactions, etc. The journal should be literate and intelligent - creativity is encouraged. Please use your notes from any lectures or excursions to help guide your reflections in your journals. Please write legibly! You may be asked to share materials from your journals as part of the daily reflection sessions. Journals will be collected by the RDs on the evening of the final day in Iceland, and returned after grading.

Grading Scale

94-100	A	77-79	C+
90-93	A-	74-76	C
87-89	B+	70-73	C-
84-86	B	67-69	D+
80-83	B-	60-66	D

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: *Students are reminded that academic misconduct is a violation of the code of Student Conduct and, per faculty rule 3335-31-02, must be reported to the*

Committee on Academic Misconduct. The University defines academic misconduct as any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution, or subvert the educational process. Some examples are plagiarism, cheating on examinations, and violation of course rules as contained in the course syllabus. Please maintain academic integrity and professionalism.

Attendance Policy: *Similar to other University courses, attendance is expected. Therefore, students are responsible for knowing any changes to the syllabus, for all information presented and discussed in class, for announcements made in class, for materials distributed in class, and for classroom exercises and assignments. Emergency absences will be dealt with on an individual case basis.*

Disabled Students: *Students with disabilities should contact the course instructors to make arrangements. Special needs must be discussed and arrangements made well in advance of when they are required (preferably during the first week of classes). Special accommodations may be arranged through the OSU Office of Disability Services, 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Ave., ph: 292-3307. Website: <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>*